

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02  
INR-07 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /079 W  
-----106702 251230Z /13

O 251126Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9664

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALLAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIAT

AMCONSUL DURBAN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 6377

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: IAN SMITH ANNOUNCES INTERNAL SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY: AT A NOV.24 PRESS CONFERENCE, IAN SMITH COMMITTED HIMSELF PUBLICLY FOR THE FIRST TIME TO THE PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE BASED ON " ADULT SUFFRAGE" PROVIDED THERE ARE CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES FOR WHITES. HE ALSO REVEALED THAT ON THIS BASIS MUZOREWA, SITHOLE AND CHIRAU HAD AGREED TO TALKS BEGINNING NEXT WEEK AIMING AT AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. END SUMMARY:

2. FOLLOWING IS THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY SMITH AT HIS NOV 24 BULAWAYO PRESS CONFERENCE:

QUOTE: IN VIEW OF THE FAILURE OF THE LATEST ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE, THE PRIME MINISTER INVITED THE LEADER OF THE BLACK POLITICAL PARTIES TO ENTER INTO CONSTITUTIONAL  
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NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT, WITH A VIEW OF REACHING A CONSTITUTIONAL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA, AND THUS TO BRING PEACE TO THE COUNTRY. THE BLACK LEADERS, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, IMPRESSED UPON THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE ONLY WAY OF SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHING THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A SETTLEMENT COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE BASED ON ADULT SUFFRAGE.

3. QUOTE: THE PRIME MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTERESTS IN A QUALIFIED FRANCHISE WAS A MEANS OF INSURING THE MAINTENANCE NOT ONLY OF STANDARDS, BUT ALSO OF THE CONFIDENCE OF WHITE RHODESIANS. CONSTITUTIONAL AND OTHER EVIDENCE NOW AVAILABLE INDICATED THAT THERE WERE OTHER AND POSSIBLY BETTER WAYS OF MAINTAINING THE STANDARDS AND RETAINING THIS CONFIDENCE, THAN BY MEANS OF A QUALIFIED FRANCHISE. ACCORDINGLY, GOVERNMENT WOULD RESERVE THE RIGHT TO PURSUE THESE ASPECTS IN ANY CONSTITUTIONAL NEGOTIATIONS.

4. QUOTE: THE BLACK POLITICAL LEADERS FULLY ENDORSED THE DESIRABILITY OF RETAINING WHITE CONFIDENCE, AND ACCEPTED GOVERNMENT'S RIGHT TO FOLLOW THIS COURSE AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE. IN VIEW OF THIS UNDERTAKING, GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO ENTER THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IF THEIR REQUIREMENTS IN THIS REGARD ARE MET, THEY WILL ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE, BASED ON ADULT SUFFRAGE, UNQUOTE.

5. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS COVER POINTS MADE BY SMITH IN THE QUESTION PERIOD AS REPORTED BY SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS AND RADIO: SMITH SAID HE INTENDED TO PRESS AHEAD WITH THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. ALL THREE BLACK LEADERS INVOLVED, HE SAID, WERE EQUALLY COMMITTED TO A SWIFT END OF "THE KIND OF MADNESS WHICH EXISTS IN RHODESIA TODAY". SMITH SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WOULD BE AGREEMENT WITHIN A MATTER OF WEEKS, BUT HOPED  
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THAT IT COULD COME WITHIN A FEW MONTHS.

6. SMITH POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD OBLIGATIONS TO THE WHITE ELECTORATE TO LET THEM VOTE IN A REFERENDUM BEFORE ANY CHANGES WERE MADE. "IT CAN IN NO WAY INTERFERE WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL REALITIES OF LIFE," HE SAID. "THIS MEANS THAT A CONSTITUTIONAL BILL WOULD HAVE TO BE PASSED BEFORE ANY CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES CAN TAKE PLACE." HE SAID THE THREE BLACK LEADERS HAD ACCEPTED THIS PROVISION, BUT HAD NOT PRESSED FOR ANY IMMEDIATE TEST OF OPINION AMONG THE BLACK POPULATION.

7. SMITH SAID THAT WHILE HE THOUGHT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE HAD FAILED HE WAS NOT CLOSING THE DOOR ENTIRELY TO BRITISH OR AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN HIS PLAN. "I BELIEVE WE SHOULD NEVER CLOSE THE DOOR TO ANY ONE," HE SAID, "AND THIS INCLUDES BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES IF THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE." ASKED WHAT HIS REACTION WOULD BE IF, AS WAS WIDELY EXPECTED, THE WORLD BLAMED HIM FOR THE FAILURE OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE, SMITH REPLIED "MY CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR. I WON'T LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER THAT ONE. I THINK THE RECORD MAKES IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT AT NO TIME HAVE I REJECTED THE PROPOSALS, ALTHOUGH I HAVE CRITICIZED THEM".

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8. SMITH SAID IT WAS STILL POSSIBLE FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS, NKOMO AND MUGABE, TO TAKE PART IN THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS. " IF ANY EXTERNALLY BASED ORGANIZATION IS INTERESTED IN TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF," HE SAID, " AND CAME BACK TO RHODESIA ON THAT BASIS THAT THEY FORSAKE TERRORISM AND ACCEPT THAT THE BEST THING TO DO IS WORK PEACEFULLY FOR A SETTLEMENT HERE, THEIR CASE WILL BE GIVEN VERY SERIOUS AND I SHOULD IMAGINE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION." BUT, HE ADDED, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HVE TO BE SATISFIED THAT ANY UNDERTAKINGS GIVEN BY NKOMO AND MUGABE WOULD BE "HONEST AND SINCERE." SMITH SAID THAT " A SAFE RETURN" POLICY FOR TERRORISTS GUARANTEEING IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION IF THEY AGREED TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS WOULD PROBABLY BE AGREED TO BEFORE INDEPENDENCE.

9. HE TOLD NEWSMEN HE WAS SATISFIED THAT IF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WAS DEMONSTRATED TO BE " GENUINE" WITH THE FULL AGREEMENT OF BLACKS, IT WOULD GAIN ACCEPTANCE OF THE WORLD LEADING TO THE END OF SACTIONS AND THIS COUNTRY'S RETURN TO  
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LEGALITY AFTER OVER 12 YEARS OF UDI.

10. WE ARE ENDEAVORING TO SECURE THE FULL TRANSCRIPT OF THE  
PRESS CONFERENCE AND WILL FORWARD IT IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT.  
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